

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application prior to entering this amendment. The Examiner allows claims 17-22, 25 and 27-29 and indicates allowable claims 6-12 and 14-16 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner objects to claim 22 because of a typographical error. The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 13, 23-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hase, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,636,254).

The applicants amend claims 1, 6, 14, 16, 22-24 and 26.

Claims 1-29 continue to be pending in the application after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

The applicants thank Examiner Tran for allowing claims 17-22, 25 and 27-29.

The applicants rewrite claims 6, 14 and 16 in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

The applicants amend claim 22 to correct a typographical error.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The applicants amend independent claims 1, 23 and 26 to include limitations found by the Examiner to be allowable in other pending claims (and not disclosed in the prior art of record). The applicants amend claim 24 to depend from claim 23. Claims 1-5, 13, 23-24 and 26 should be in condition for the Examiner's allowance.

Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims as amended. The applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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